

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 SY-04 SCCT-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 CU-04 SCI-06 AF-10 USSS-00

OPR-02 DRC-01 IO-14 /131 W

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R 251220Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6344

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2582

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR EG LY

SUBJ: ATTACK ON TECHNICAL MILITARY ACADEMY: LIBYAN ASPECTS

REF: CAIRO 2472

1. POSSIBLY GOADED BY SPURIOUS LEBANESE PRESS ARTICLES, GOE HAS RETURNED TO POLICY OF RELEASE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING ATTACK ON TECHNICAL MILITARY ACADEMY. DETAILS OF STATEMENT BY PUBLIC PROSECUTOR WHICH APPEAR IN APRIL 25 PRESS ARE BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY, BUT NOTEWORTHY ASPECT CONTINUES TO BE FINGERING OF QADHAAFI AS ALLEGED MASTERMIND BEHIND OPERATION. PROSECUTOR'S REPORT POINTS OUT THAT RINGLEADER OF OPERATION, SALIH ABDALLAH SARIYYA, HAS CONFESSED THAT BEFORE PLAN WAS PUT INTO EFFECT HE HAD TRAVELED TO LIBYA AT OFFICIAL INVITATION OF LIBYAN GOVERNMENT TRANSMITTED TO HIM THROUGH LIBYAN CHARGE IN CAIRO BAKKUSH ON JUNE 6, 1973 (CAIRO PAPERS PRINT FACSIMILE OF BAKKUSH'S LETTER OF INVITATION), WHERE HE MET WITH QADHAAFI. SARIYYA HAS CONFESSED THAT DURING THIS MEETING HE DISCUSSED THE FORMATION OF COMMANDO GROUPS TO CARRY OUT ILLEGAL OPERATIONS AND ACTS OF SABOTAGE. PURPOSE OF SARIYYA'S ORGANIZATION (THAT ONE WHICH ATTACKED ACADEMY) WAS "TO DAMAGE
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EGYPT'S REPUTATION BY DISTURBING PUBLIC SECURITY IN ORDER TO

SHOW THAT THERE WAS A HOSTILE TREND IN THE COUNTRY."

2. COMMENT: THERE IS AS YET NO INDICATION HOW FAST AND HOW FAR GOE WILL MOVE POLITICALLY AGAINST LIBYA IN NEXT FEW DAYS, BUT INDICATIONS ARE INCREASING THAT IT INTENDS TO DO SO IN SOME MANNER. FACT THAT LIBYAN MININT HUMAYDI'S VISIT ENDED (HE WAS SEEN OFF AT AIRPORT APRIL 24 BY MAMDUH SALEM) WITH NO RESULTANT LET UP IN GOE'S ACCUSATIONS OF QADHAAFI SUGGESTS THAT IT WAS NOT A SUCCESS, AND THIS VIEW IS REINFORCED BY APRIL 25 EDITORIAL IN AHRAM BY ALI AMIN, WHO CALLS QADHAAFI A "VILLAGE IDIOT". AT MOMENT, LIBYAN PRESENCE IN EGYPT DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED (EARLIER REPORTS--REFTEL--TO THE CONTRARY), BUT CLOSE SECURITY GUARD CONTINUES ON LIBYAN ESTABLISHMENTS. EILTS

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